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DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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July 28, 1993

TO: Minerals File

FROM: D. Wayne Hedberg, Permit Supervisor *DWH*

RE: Site Inspection, Hecla Mining Company, Escalante Silver Mine, M/021/004, Iron County, Utah

Date of Inspection: July 15, 1993
Time of Inspection: 9:30-10:40 AM
Conditions: Sunny, calm and warm
Participants: Gina Pack, BLM; Wayne Hedberg, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: To confirm status of suspended operations and tailings impoundment stability.

An joint inspection was performed to confirm the suspended mine site status and to evaluate the effectiveness of the surface sealant recently applied to the tailings impoundment to suppress blowing dust. Upon arrival at the mine site we proceeded directly out to the tailings impoundment area. The perimeter fence was secure and the main access gate to the impoundment was closed and locked. The impoundment was dry and there was no sign of blowing dust evident. The surface sealant appeared to be performing adequately in controlling wind erosion of the dry tailings.

We then proceeded back to inspect the unreclaimed millsite area. On the westside of a maintenance building, a small backhoe pit had recently been dug to expose what appeared to be a water control valve and associated 8-10 inch pipeline manifold. A small section of the pipeline/manifold had been repaired/replaced and was yet to be re-buried.

We inspected the mill process solution tank farm complex area next. We noted that of the 6 large open topped tanks, one was 2/3 - 3/4 full, one was @ 1/2 full and the rest had only residual rainwater(?) in the bottoms. One tank had a 4-6 inch return line from the underdrain system of the tailings impoundment draining into the top of it. A small outflow was draining into the tank at an estimated rate of 1-2 gpm. Two of the tanks with solution in them were very slowly leaking solution into the concrete-lined containment bunker enclosing the tanks. One tank was trickling solution from a drain valve, the other from a rusted, bolted flange near the bottom of the tank. An estimated 2-3 feet of solution was impounded in the concrete containment bunker at the time of our inspection.

Several photographs were taken of the site to document the existing conditions.

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